KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Plant Disease in Kansas

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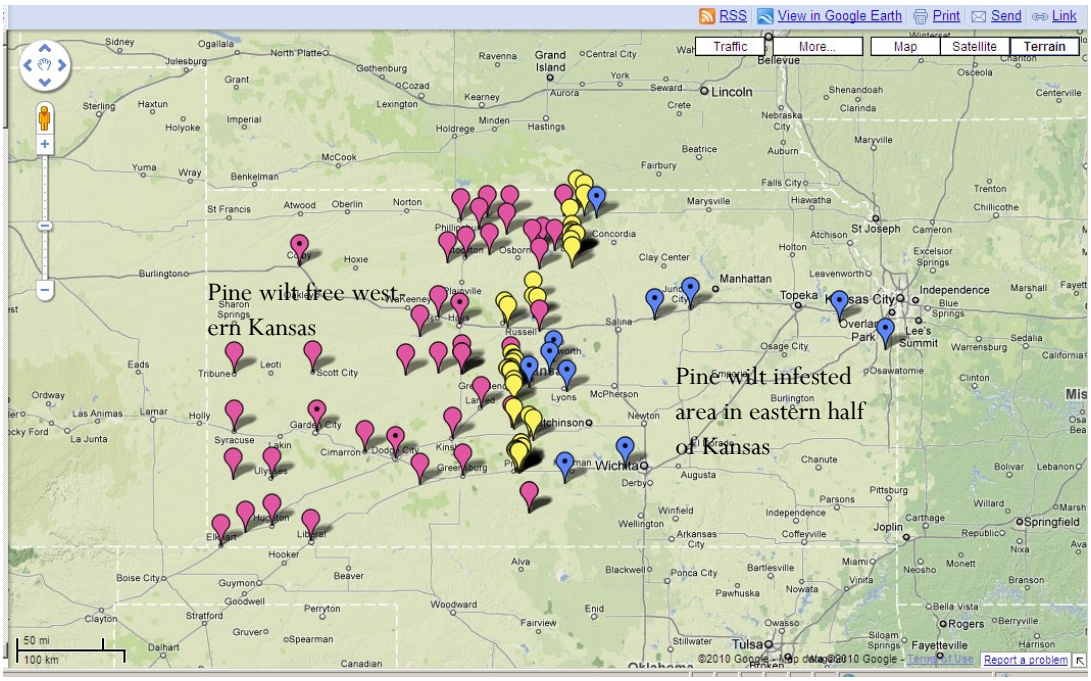
Pine wilt update for central and western Kansas

It seems late in the year but there are still many trees going down from pine wilt fall infection. The cold wet weather of recent has delayed wilt symptoms. Below is a map of pine wilt movement into central Kansas. Yellow place marks are leading edge finds whereas the blue place marks are reports in well established areas. Purple place marks in western Kansas are negative survey locations. Landowners and other stakeholders near the yellow place marks and in eastern Kansas should survey pines for flagged branches and dying trees. Now is the best time (till mid May) for removal of trees to stop the next generation of sawyer beetles/pine wilt that will emerge from wood of the dead or dying pine tree.. Burn, bury, or chip all trunk and branch wood over 1 inch in diameter for control.

Special points of interest:

- *For more information on Pine Wilt go to the following web page. http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/350/cid/1276*
- *For information on Thousand Cankers Disease go to: http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/350/cid/1615*



Thousand cankers disease of walnut

Thousand cankers disease of walnut or TCD is being addressed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Forest Service, KSU Extension Service, and industry stakeholders. The program in Kansas will rely on surveillance, outreach, and a flexible quarantine. The closest known infection of the disease is Rocky Ford in Colorado and about 120 miles from walnut trees in Kansas communities and 240 miles or so from the far western edge of native walnuts here in Kansas.

Thousand cankers disease is caused by a fungus, Geosmithia morbida that is transmitted from tree to tree by the walnut twig beetle. The fungi form small cankers killing bark cambium tissue and when infection from multiple walnut twig beetle entries occur then these cankers coalesce killing off branch and trunk tissue. The result is death of a tree from 2-4 years after infection.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL PROGRAM
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INVASIVE SPECIES

Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

Wheat health: 2010 crop

The Kansas wheat crop is beginning to break dormancy and appears to have overwintered in pretty good shape. In a recent visit through central and southwest Kansas, stands appeared in good shape and soil moisture was high. Powdery mildew was beginning to become apparent in and around Larned and in the Dodge City area. Cloudy wet weather is ideal for this disease along with other diseases such as speckled leaf blotch.

Leaf rust and viral infections were not observed.

The final year of a three nematode study will be conducted in central and eastern Kansas fields. The survey has been conducted previously in western and parts of central Kansas. The purpose of the survey is two fold with the goal of determining if any exotic nematodes have found their way to Kansas production fields and to determine populations of lesion and other known nematodes in wheat fields. Based on the findings so far, it appears that lesion nematode populations may reach levels that cause some moderate damage and overall reduce the yield produced in Kansas by about 1 per cent or between 2-3 million bushels of grain.